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reality permanent is evident from the fact there are eight judges who have sat in three or more of the fifteen cases and one judge who has sat in seven of the fifteen cases.

"The conference desires again to affirm its belief in the desirability of such legislation by Congress as will confer upon the courts of the United States jurisdiction over all cases arising under treaty provisions or affecting the rights of aliens."

These Mohonk Conferences are rich opportunities for advancing valued friendships, mutual understandings and sympathies. The atmosphere of genuine hospitality, furnished so abundantly and with such delicate and unstudied courtesy by Mr. and Mrs. Smiley, naturally colors and directs the speech and conversation of the guests. The place is beautiful, the occasion significant. Dr. William T. Harris once said that a person who studies Latin fifteen minutes will never be the same person again. Attendance upon one Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, with its *cameraderie* and good will, leaves an indelible impression that international peace is desirable and attainable. To have attended one of them means the attainment of an additional spiritual asset, enduring and worth while. The twenty-second of these conferences was fully worthy of its place in the long and inspiring series.

THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY BEFORE CONGRESS

ON March 13 last three representatives of the American Peace Society appeared before the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House of Representatives and pleaded for two specific things, namely, a program of preparedness in terms of international organization and, secondly, for the resolution to which we have heretofore referred, known as the Shafroth amendment, an amendment which prevents the expenditure of money under the appropriation should an international court render "unnecessary the maintenance of competitive armaments."

The naval appropriation bill was agreed upon by the House Naval Affairs Committee on Thursday, May 18, the seventeenth anniversary of the beginning of The Hague Conference. The bill includes the Shafroth amendment exactly as recommended by this Society. Furthermore, it includes a resolution introduced by Mr. Hensley, of Missouri, and adopted by unanimous vote as follows:

"Upon conclusion of the war in Europe, or as soon after as it may be done, the President of the United States is authorized to invite all great governments of the world to send representatives to a conference which shall be charged with the duty of proposing an organization, court of arbitration, or other body to which questions of disagreement between nations shall be referred for adjudication and peaceful settlement and to consider the question of disarmament and to submit their recommendations to their respective governments for approval."

The resolution further authorizes the appointment of

nine men to represent the United States in such conferences and appropriates \$200,000 for their salary and all expenses.

Whether or not these two important features of the naval bill prove acceptable to the House and to the Senate, it is encouraging that the two proposals of this Society have been found unanimously acceptable to the committee. They may be designated as two concrete results following the work of the American Peace Society. Whatever the fate of the armament appropriation bills, these two amendments, which contain nothing that is hostile to the national welfare, and much that may be helpful to the international welfare, including our own, should be passed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Obstacles in the Way of Peace.

We are frequently asked, Why does President Wilson do nothing to bring about peace? Why isn't the American Peace Society trying to stop this war? The people who ask these questions seem to ignore the world situation. Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy feel that peace at this time would at best be but a return to the conditions that existed before the war. This would mean to all intents a victory for Germany. There have been no proposals by one side in any sense hopeful or agreeable to the other. The entente powers consider that the central powers have reached the maximum of their ability in men, munitions, and other resources, while they themselves are just approaching their greatest strength. The central powers reverse the situation and are still hopeful that they will defeat the entente. Russia has not yet opened the road to Constantinople, and is unwilling, therefore, seriously to consider any peace proposals. France hopes not only to turn to her own advantage the terrible and unsuccessful attacks upon Verdun, but believes that, with the aid of British soldiers, she will yet turn the German right flank and force a retreat to German soil. Even in case of a military deadlock or stalemate, the entente allies have great hopes that, with the continued more or less effective blockade by the British fleet, the commercial breakdown of the central powers will soon follow. In any event, it is neither clear that there is to be a deadlock nor that an early peace can possibly be durable.

Neither side has asked the President of the United States to offer his aid. There is no reason, therefore, for repeating the friendly offer of mediation presented by the President early in the history of the war. It is reasonable to presume that the one man in all the world most anxious to help in the establishment of the peace is Woodrow Wilson. To urge him to mediate can do no harm, but it seems to us that it can do little good.